

Environmental Activists' Conference '08 'Climate Emergency – No More Business As Usual!'



FULL PROGRAM

Friday 10 October, PUBLIC FORUM, Basil Hetzel Auditorium, Uni SA City East, enter from Frome Road.

- 5.00-5.30 Book signing by **David Spratt** and **Mark Diesendorf** in the Basil Hetzel Auditorium foyer, University of SA, Frome Road, Adelaide.
- 6.00-8.15 **PUBLIC FORUM**
This Is An Emergency! An Introduction to the Real Science of Global Warming
Welcome of Country, Uncle Lewis O'Brien, Kurna Elder
Panel
Chair: Jennifer Bain, Climate Emergency Action Network (CLEAN)
This is an emergency! David Spratt, Researcher, CarbonEquity and author;
Dr Mark Diesendorf, Deputy Director, Institute of Environmental Studies, UNSW
Target One Earth: Living within our footprint -- What we can learn from Cuba, Robyn Francis, Permaculture International Ltd and ERDA Institute Inc
Global warming: two key facts, two key solutions, Professor Barry Brook, Director Research Institute for Climate Change & Sustainability, Adelaide University

Saturday 11 October, CONFERENCE, Australian Education Union, 163 Greenhill Road, Parkside

- 9.00-9.30 **Main Hall**
Welcome to Country, Uncle Lewis O'Brien, Kurna Elder
Welcome: Marcus Knill, SA Vice President, Australian Education Union
Introduction to Community Activity, Lynn Hall, Australian Education Union, and David Wynne, NSW Teachers' Federation will establish networks based on geography and activism.
- 9.30- 10.55 **CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS - WHY NOT BUSINESS AS USUAL?**
- Room 1**
(main building)
1. The Science Behind the Climate Emergency
David Spratt, Researcher, CarbonEquity and author, with Professor Barry Brook, Director, Research Institute for Climate Change and Sustainability, Adelaide University. Based on the study of recent climate science and impacts published in *Climate Code Red*, the workshop looks at why action on global warming must be taken at emergency speed, and why action in 'politics-as-usual' mode will be too little, too late, given the new scientific imperatives.
- 1st floor**
Confer
Room west
(Macghey House)
2. Global Food Systems
Introduction to food waste, **Dr John Rolls**, Adjunct Senior Research Fellow, Institute for Sustainable Systems and Technologies, Uni SA and chair, Human Rights Commission. In the UK and US about half the food produced is wasted between the farm and the fork, the same is probably true here. What can we do to change that?

Global food systems workshop, **Elise Harris**, urban planning student at University of SA. Participants will follow the journey of food from farm to plate, including mapping the inputs and outputs and impacts of the system. Elise will focus on what we can do to support ethical food systems and reject the current one. Participants can use these ideas with their students or community groups.
- Room 3**
(main building)
3. How Is a Sustainable Transition Possible? And Peak Oil - The Real Story! - (shared session)
Australia can be carbon neutral, **Renfrey Clarke**, writer and convener of the Socialist Alliance. This talk outlines technologies and processes that will help achieve a carbon neutral Australia - once the power of fossil fuel interests is broken.

Understanding the complexities of the Global Oil Supply Crisis, **Jennifer Bain**, PhD Candidate (Politics), University of Adelaide. Are we at the end of 'cheap energy'? The geopolitics and historical perspective of conflict over oil resources and the systemic causes of the global food crisis.
- Members' Lounge**
(Macghey House)
4. Population, Environment and Ecosocialism
Simon Butler, Socialist Alliance, and **Stephen Darley**, Ecosocialist Network ask whether overpopulation is a key concern for environmentalists today? Or does a focus on restricting population growth play into the hands of the 'business as usual' advocates and divert attention away from the real issue of stopping climate change? How do principles of Ecosocialism combine environmental goals with the movement for democratic social change?

Room 5
(main
building)

5. Sustainable and Attainable: Tackling Climate Change: A Resource For Schools

Jonathan Noble, Curriculum Manager, DECS, will present this draft resource which supports education and school management processes to address climate change by building sustainability in attainable steps. Whole school communities can develop skills and capacities to appreciate, manage, improve and communicate the environmental performance of their school through participatory, hands-on learning.

1ST floor
Confer
Room east
(Macghey
House)

6. Theories of Change

Caleb Lilley, **Sophie Rogers** and **Georgia Roberts**, Environment Collective of Students (ECOS), University of Adelaide, and **Matt Allen**, Australian Student Environment Network (ASEN), NSW. Our campaigns for a better world take place in a context, and reflect social and political realities and trends. This workshop challenges participants to ask critical 'big picture' questions about change, and engages them in reflection and dialogue. The workshop is inspired by Greg Speeter's urging that "social change agents need to have some sort of theory of social change which guides their actions and efforts. Even before one sets about deciding on a set of goals for an organisation ... one first has to have a theory about how change will occur as a guide to setting those goals." We all have a theory of change, but rarely take time to articulate or share it. Participants generally find this a powerful experience that guides their future approach to campaigning.

Room 2
(main
building)

7. Implementing Sustainable Schools

Matt Cattanach and **Hugh Kneebone**, Adelaide & Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board, and **Pippa Cattanach**, South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board. How can local Natural Resources Management Boards support schools on their journey towards environmental sustainability?

Merilyn Klem, Principal, Murray Bridge High School, presents what one large high school has been able to do in trying to establish a sustainable school.

Room 3
(Macghey
House)

8. Young Children Can Make a Difference – Developing An Understanding of a Sustainable Approach to Living in Early Childhood Settings

Marie Cullen, Somerton Park Kindergarten, will share how the kindergarten has incorporated learning about sustainability and the environment into its normal early childhood learning program through song and daily activities. Resources, handouts and songs will be shared in this practical workshop for teachers.

Room 4
(main
building)

9. WATER!

Robert Lloyd, Save Our Gulf Coalition (SOGC), Watering Adelaide Sustainably - Without Desalination! SOGC has been formed to stop the desalination plant proposed for Port Stanvac; to stop storm water, effluent and industrial waste damaging marine ecosystems; and to water Adelaide through sustainable means.

10.55-11.20

MORNING TEA in foyer

11.20-12.50
Main Hall

PLENARY 1: WAYS FORWARD – OFFERING DIRECTIONS

Chair: Janet Giles, Secretary, SA Unions

Speakers:

1. **David Spratt**, Researcher, CarbonEquity, and author
2. **Dr Mark Diesendorf**, Deputy Director, Institute of Environmental Studies, UNSW
3. **Robyn Francis**, Permaculture International Ltd; Erda Institute Inc.
4. **David Kerin**, Union Solidarity Coordinator, Victoria

12.50-1.50

LUNCH in the AEU staff room and courtyard next door

1.50-3.15

CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS - LET'S GET ACTIVE! WHAT CAN WE DO LOCALLY, NATIONALLY, GLOBALLY?

Room 2
(main
building)

10. Developing Critical Thinking Skills through Climate Change Themes

Peter Golding, Seaton High School, and **John Rice**, Adelaide TAFE, will demonstrate resources & methods for developing scientific and social/political criticality by exploring climate change in a high school context.

1st floor
Confer
room east
(Macghey
House)

11. Youth and Environmental Activism - (shared session)

Is Gen Y really apathetic and indifferent to social change and activism? What is the role of young people in the environment movement? How can young people play a role in the political process?

Georgia Roberts, **Jake Wishart** and **Georgia Oliver** from the SA Young Greens invite you to share your ideas and join the discussion.

Culture Jamming with **Matt Allen**, Australian Student Environment Network (ASEN), NSW. What we know as 'public space' is often anything but public, with advertising messages dominating the scenery nearly everywhere. Culture Jamming is a direct challenge to the idea that public space belongs to the highest bidder: armed with paint, textas and ideas, we can reclaim the city and spread our messages of change.

Room 4
(main
building)

12. Understanding the Texts Around Climate Change

Julie Hayes and **Giuseppe Mammone** from Cowandilla Primary School will give a brief overview of the school's initiatives; sharing the work they are doing with students to develop a climate change school, and supporting students from all year levels and backgrounds to learn about climate change through science texts. Language is a focus for their work with students.

Room 3
(main
building)

13. Climate Change and Inappropriate Responses - (shared session)

An ice-free North Pole? Darren Ray, Senior Meteorologist, Commonwealth Government Bureau of Meteorology. Climate change policy is lagging climate change science at a time when climate science is rapidly evolving. See what this means in terms of the various feedback processes impacting projections of future temperature, rainfall and sea level rise, and get the latest on the state of the climate from a South Australian climate meteorologist.

No Nuclear 'Solution', David Noonan, Nuclear Free Campaigner, Australian Conservation Foundation, will talk about Australian uranium, nuclear risks and insecurity, debunking any claimed nuclear energy role.

Room 1
(main
building)

14. A Positive Permaculture Approach - (shared session)

Transition Education – Permaculture Green Collar Workforce, Robyn Francis, Permaculture International. The CSIRO recently stated Australia needs to train 3 million Green Collar workers by 2015 to meet Climate Change targets. Permaculture is ready to meet this challenge for a new generation of green collar workers in sustainable design, community development, food security, appropriate technology and practical solutions for facilitating the transition to a low-carbon society.

The Food Forest, Annemarie Brookman, The Food Forest, Gawler, on a positive permaculture approach, design principles and using the Food Forest as an example of what can be done; from h2o capture and recycling to growing food and preserving, harnessing the sun's energy, energy efficient buildings, local and in-season food.

1st floor
Confer
Room
Western
end
(Macghey
House)

15. Unions, Communities and Environmentalists

Chaired by Janet Giles, Secretary, SA Unions

How can we begin to bring together diverse groups into a strong mass movement for climate justice? Two prominent environmental activists from Melbourne discuss their experiences.

Ben Courtice, Initiator, Climate Emergency Rally (Melbourne) and activist on forging links.

David Kerin, Union Solidarity Victoria, on collaborations between unions and the community on environmentally sustainable work.

Room 5
(main
building)

16. Sustainable Solutions - (shared session)

The Cuban Energy Revolution, Ron and Bev Hall, Australia Cuba Friendship Society and **Andrew Hall**, Australian Venezuelan Solidarity Network. Cuba is recognised by the Worldwide Fund for Nature as the world's only sustainable economy. How has Cuba achieved this remarkable feat and where is it going now? How does the environmental record of the new revolution in Venezuela compare?

Your planet needs you! Margaret Rohde and **Judy Stacey**, Urban Ecology, Adelaide, present communities in action.

Room 3
(Macghey
House)

17. One Earth, One People - Practising Oneness With Earth, Each Other and Oneself

Peter Laffan will use silence, sharing of stories and symbols to renew and deepen our connection to Earth and each other. Returning Earth to a safe climate will demand the creation of a new culture based on our unity as human beings and our dependence on the biosphere. One aspect of that culture is a spirituality which can remove the barriers to realising our oneness.

Members'
Lounge
(Macghey
House)

18. Time to Remember

Karranjal John Hartley's mother's people are the Ku Ku Yalanji. His country takes in both the flat wooded western areas and much of the eastern Daintree Rainforest area of far north Queensland. Participants will hear a personal Aboriginal perspective about relationship to Mother Earth in simple plain spoken word.

3.15-3.30

MOVE TO MAIN HALL

3.30-5.00
Main Hall

PLENARY 2: BEYOND BUSINESS AS USUAL – WHAT WE ARE DOING

Chair: Janet Giles, Secretary, SA Unions

Speakers:

1. **Elise Harris**, University of South Australia and a member of the Cross-Campus Environment Collective
2. **Dr Paul Downton**, Ecological Architect & Urban Ecologist, Guest Lecturer, Adelaide University, Founding Convenor Urban Ecology..
3. **Renfrey Clarke**, Green Left Weekly environment correspondent, Adelaide Convenor Socialist Alliance.
4. **Marcus Knill**, SA Vice-President AEU

5.00-5.30

CALL TO ACTION & CONCLUSIONS

John Rice, Climate Emergency Action Network (CLEAN) will bring the conference to its conclusion by establishing an independent Climate Emergency Action Network from interested members of the AEU, education community, academics and community groups.

AFTER

Informal meet and eat at the Gilbert Street Hotel, 88 Gilbert Street, Adelaide.

DISPLAYS:

Books for sale, KESAB Zero Waste, OXFAM, Green Left Weekly, Urban Ecology, Carbon Planet, NRM Education, Australian Association for Environment Education SA Chapter

CONFERENCE MATERIALS:

After the conference, materials provided by presenters will be posted to the Australian Education Union www.aeusa.asn.au and Climate Emergency Action Network www.cleansa.asn.au websites.

WITH MANY THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING SUPPORTIVE ORGANISATIONS:

Adelaide Peak Oil Transition Group
Adelaide Uni. Environment Collective of Students
Australian Peace Committee SA
Australian Association for Environmental Education
Australian Conservation Foundation
Australian Education Union (SA Branch)
Climate Emergency Action Group (CLEAN)
Communist Party of Australia
Conservation Council of South Australia
Construction Forestry Mining Energy Union (SA)
EarthSong
Food Forest
Friends of the Earth Adelaide
GetUp
Green Left Weekly
Human Rights Coalition
Independent Education Union

Liquor Hospitality & Miscellaneous Union-SA Branch
NOWAR SA
National Tertiary Education Union
OXFAM Australia
Quakers
Reclaim the Food Chain (FoE)
Research Institute for Climate Change and Sustainability, University of Adelaide
Resistance
SA Unions
Save Our Gulf Coalition
Socialist Alliance
The Australian Greens, South Australia
Union Solidarity
Urban Ecology
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
Young Greens

MAP OF AEU BUILDINGS, NUMBERED WITH WORKSHOP ROOMS:

